Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information For Immediate Release April 4, 2003 Contact: Ron Lane

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BLM COMPLETES LAND EXCHANGE IN NORTHEAST OREGON

PRINEVILLE--The Bureau of Land Management's Central Oregon Resource Area signed a decision today to dispose of four parcels of public land in Grant County in exchange for previously acquired private lands located throughout Northeast Oregon.

This decision completes the agency's responsibilities under the Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000. The Act, (Public Law 106-257), directed the Secretary of Interior to exchange certain federal lands for private lands in order to consolidate ownership and enhance long term resource conservation and management. These final four parcels will balance the land values between acquired private land and disposed public lands, as directed under the Act.

The BLM disposed of mostly upland parcels that were difficult to manage because of their isolation or distance from other public lands. In exchange the BLM acquired important aquatic and riparian habitat, mainly along the North and South Forks of the John Day River, and contiguous blocks of lands that are more efficient to manage.

The signed decision is available for public review from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the BLM Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third St, in Prineville or on the Prineville District's website: http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville. For more information, please contact Ron Lane, BLM Realty Specialist, at 541-416-6700.

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